

## Outdoor Events in Chastain Park

The City of Atlanta Outdoor Events Ordinance (Atlanta Code of Ordinances Chapter 142) sets forth the only criteria that may be considered when evaluating whether to approve an outdoor event permit request. These criteria, set forth in section 142-12, are limited to factors that are applied uniformly to all permit requests, regardless of the message or content of the event at issue.

The Code explicitly recognizes that there may be competing permit applications for events that are substantially at the same time and place, but that logistically cannot occur together. In that situation, with the exception of annual events, the organizer whose application is received first receives priority as to the time and place requested.

The Chastain Amphitheater is managed and operated by the Chastain Venture (the “Venture”). Pursuant to its contract with the City, the Venture’s concert season occurs from April 1 through October 31 of each year (the “Concert Season”). The various components of an Amphitheater concert would qualify each concert as an “Outdoor Festival”, as defined in Section 142 of the Code of Ordinances, but no such designation is made, and no Festival permit is required because of the existence of the Amphitheater contract with the Venture.

Chastain Park has a number of different and well-utilized amenities, including ball fields, a golf course, a play ground, a PATH trail, a pool, an Arts and Crafts Center, and a horse park. A frequent complaint that the City receives about the park year-round is that there is a lack of adequate parking. During nights when an Amphitheater concert is performed, parking becomes exponentially more difficult, and has previously resulted in cars being parked illegally on lawns and other areas where parking is prohibited. The Venture has worked closely with the Chastain neighborhood and with the City to identify ways to eliminate illegal parking on concert nights. In addition, Amphitheater events result in a tremendous amount of traffic entering and leaving the neighborhood. As with parking, the Venture has worked closely with the Chastain neighborhood and with the City to find acceptable solutions to managing the traffic so that the neighborhood lifestyle is not unreasonably impacted.

The Venture is guaranteed the right to use the Amphitheater during the Concert Season, provided that its use is consistent with its contract with the City. It is not logistically possible to add an additional large organized event to Chastain Park on the late afternoons and evenings of Amphitheater concerts. For that reason, the Office of Parks will deny a large gathering permit request and will recommend denial of an Outdoor Festival permit request for use (including event set up and break down) of Chastain Park after 3:00 p.m. on any day during the Concert Season, unless otherwise required by law. The Office of Parks will work with event applicants to identify other potential times and/or locations for the requested event.